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in misery. . . . All these materials are combustible, an *émeute* can cause a revolt, and a revolt a revolution." In all the eight volumes of memoirs, there was no more accurate statement.

JAMES BRECK PERKINS.

Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Edward Gibbon. Edited with Introduction and Notes by OLIVER FARRAR EMERSON, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Rhetoric and English Philology in Western Reserve University. (Boston and London: Ginn and Co. 1898. Pp. lxxv, 279.)

THIS edition of Gibbon's *Autobiography* is characterized by a reconstruction of the text on the basis of the recently published original drafts. In framing this new text Professor Emerson begins with draft "F," to use the designation of the Murray edition, as far as it goes, and then adds in order such portions of B, C and E as are not repetitions of what has already been given. The texts of these drafts are given without interpolation or suppression. The rest of the material which the first Lord Sheffield used in the construction of his text is presented in the introduction and notes. This is also the first edition of the classic to receive systematic annotation. The editor has prefaced his text with a full and discriminating introduction which gives much evidence of careful research.

Unfortunately, one exceptionally valuable contribution to Gibbon literature has escaped his notice. I refer to the late Gen. Meredith Read's *Historic Studies in Vaud, Berne, and Savoy from Roman Times to Voltaire, Rousseau and Gibbon* (Chatto and Windus, 1897). The last 250 pages of Vol. II. are devoted to Gibbon and contain a mass of hitherto unpublished materials throwing light on every phase of Gibbon's life in Switzerland. In particular Gen. Read gives many extracts from Gibbon's diaries and from the letters and journals of his friends. With this work at his side, Professor Emerson would have found the task of annotation lightened, and he would not have been obliged to say of Allemand, for example, p. 226, "Nothing seems to be known of this clergyman except what Gibbon tells." Read devoted a chapter to Allemand, (II. 134-158), and printed selections from his inedited correspondence.

The task of the first annotator is always a perplexing one, but Professor Emerson has acquitted himself very well. He has blinked no difficulties and he has been able to trace all but one or two of the literary references. One of these, curiously enough, has been printed by every editor in the unintelligible contraction found in Gibbon's manuscript as "Ramusius de Bello C. Paro." This he identified and prints as "De Bello Constantinopolitano."

That there should be a few mistakes in such pioneer work is not surprising. On p. 207, Laurence Echard, the historian, is taken for a French writer and the titles of some of his works are given in French. P. 222, for Boehart, read Bochart. On p. 237 Gibbon's remark that

"the accession of a British king" had gone far to allay Tory feeling is explained as referring to George II. The reference is to George III., who said on his accession: "Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of Briton." On p. 276 the editor nods in explaining Gibbon's simple assertion that "the writer who succeeds in London is speedily read on the banks of the Delaware and the Ganges," as follows: "That is, America and India. At this time Philadelphia was the great publishing centre of the one, Calcutta of the other." Obviously, it is not a question of publishing centres but of the confines of the English reading public. In the note on Ramusio, p. 272, the editor says that Ramusio's book "was printed in 1609 and never reprinted, so that this accounts for Gibbon's not being able to use it before." It was reprinted in 1634 or 1635 and it was this second edition which Gibbon used, as may be seen from the note descriptive of the work at the end of his sixtieth chapter.

An index would be a distinct help in the use of this edition and should be added in a reissue.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

Mirabeau. By P. F. WILLERT, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Exeter College, Oxford. [Foreign Statesmen.] (London: Macmillan and Co.; New York: The Macmillan Co. 1898. Pp. xi, 230.)

THIS volume is one of a series of brief biographies of statesmen that Macmillan and Company are publishing. The book is intended for the general public and contains no apparatus in the form of footnotes and, apart from the brief preface, no reference to the material used in the preparation of it.

Mirabeau was the most prominent figure of the first period of the Revolution, but no complete biography of the man has yet been published in English. Loménie's three large volumes and Stern's two volumes still stand alone. Mr. Willert's book, as a sketch of Mirabeau's life, is worthy to rank with the excellent short French biographies by Rousse and Mézières. He seems, however, to have been ignorant of Professor Von Holst's two volumes on Mirabeau (*The French Revolution tested by Mirabeau's Career*, Chicago, 1894), when he wrote in his preface: "I do not know that much of importance has been written in English regarding Mirabeau, except an essay by Macaulay." An essay that devotes about two pages to Mirabeau can hardly be called an important contribution to the literature on Mirabeau, while it is really worth the while of the student of Mirabeau's life to know what Professor Von Holst has written about him. Mr. Willert's volume is really a biography and treats at some length the period previous to 1789; the American work contains but one chapter on this period. Professor Von Holst cites his evidence, however, and for this reason would serve better as an introduction to the study of Mirabeau's life.

Apparently Mr. Willert's aim was to present in concise form the re-